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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (REMOVED SENSITIVE CAPTION)

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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: AFGHAN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES...AFTER A FASHION
REF: KABUL 1405

¶1. (U) SUMMARY: Parliament reconvened, without reaching quorum, on July 25. Many MPs continue to be outside of Kabul campaigning for presidential candidates or themselves. They will continue to meet as scheduled, but if quorum is not reached in the first few days they will consider a recess until after the August 20 presidential elections. The parliament's order of business included a prayer of thanks to God that no MPs died or were kidnapped over the recess; so far, eight MPs have been killed since the parliament was elected in 2005. MPs aired complaints against Coalition Forces and a female MP accused of obtaining land illegally. End Summary.

HOBBLING ALONG

¶2. (U) Parliament reconvened with 85 MPs in attendance (121 are needed for quorum). Lower House Yunus Speaker Qanooni told us in a private meeting on July 20 that the parliament will continue to meet as scheduled, but if quorum is not reached in the first few days, they may again consider a recess until after the August 20 presidential elections. Some speculated many Karzai-supporters were in attendance to show unity. Female MP Qadria Parast (Kabul, Tajik) expressed surprise that 85 MPs came, and claimed parliament "would not be able to do anything" until after the elections, because without quorum they cannot make any binding legislative decisions. Qanooni asked the committees to meet July 26 to discuss the upcoming legislative agenda. The parliament gave thanks to God that no MPs died or were kidnapped over the recess; so far, eight have been killed since the 2005 elections.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST COALITION FORCES

¶3. (U) MP Sayed Gailani (Paktika, Pashtun) said Coalition Forces were listening to "false informers" in Paktika as they tried to locate the kidnapped U.S. soldier there. MP Abdul Khan (Nangarhar, Pashtun) said Coalition Forces launched an attack in the Shirqad district of Nangarhar province, killing four civilians. He claimed they were "attacking the houses of innocent people." Speaker Qanooni said the false informers needed to be brought to justice, and called for the MPs in question to write a letter explaining the details of these cases to the Coalition Forces. He said it was not enough to "just talk about it."

FEMALE MP ACCUSED OF ABUSE OF POWER

¶4. (U) Four male MPs accused female MP Parween Durani (Kuchi, Pashtun) of abusing her MP position to illegally

obtain land and other benefits; Parween was not in attendance. The accusers included fellow-Kuchi representative and other Pashtuns. In a rare show of female solidarity - in particular from another ethnic group - MP Fatima Aziz (Kunduz, Tajik) defended Parween, saying these were only allegations, and that she was being accused because she was a female. This led to some vociferous debate, to include more MPs calling for disciplinary action against Parween. Speaker Qanooni sent the matter to the Committee on the Protection of MPs for further investigation.

EIKENBERRY